(b) whether the Government of India had ascertained the cost of sugarcane cultivation per acre for these States before fixing the price of sugarcane;

(c) if so, by which method;

(b) if not, the reason thereof; and

(e) what was the amount of profit made by the Sugar Industry during the period from 1990 to 1992?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD (SHRI KALP NATH RAI): (a) As per available information, the State Advised Cane Prices, depending upon the varieties, payable at mill gate in Punjab, UP and Bihar are as folows:—

(Rs. per quintal)

	Rs.
Punjab	46-50
U.P.	46.49
Bihar	46.49

(b) to (d) Before announcing the Statutory Minimum Price, the Central Government considers the report submitted by the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP). The CACP while formualting its recommendations, *inter alia*, takes into account the cost of production also.

(e) Data in this regard is not maintained in the Ministry.

Import of food

2175. PROF. SAURIN BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) the details of imports of food made during the current year or agreed to be imported in course of subsequent year;

(b) whether it is a fact that inspite of sufficient stocks available in the country Government have resorted to imports at the instance of other countries; and

(c) if so, details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD (SHRI KALP NATH RAI): (a) For the current year 1992-93, the details of import of foodgrains (wheat and rice) are given below:—

WHEAT: A total of 2.99 million tonnes of wheat has been contracted for imports. This is composed of 10.05 lakh tonnes of Canadian wheat contracted on 19.6.92 at an average FOB price of US $147.78 per tonne, 10 lakh tonnes of Australian wheat (5 lakh MTs contracted on 25.8.92 on FOB price of US $ 137.50 PMT and 5 lakh M.Ts contracted on 8.10.92 at the FOB price of US $ 135 per tonne) and 9.85 lakh tonnes of US wheat contracted on 6.10.92 at an average FOB price of US $ 111.83 per tonne.

RICE: A quantity of 2.15 lakh tonnes of rice at the rate of US $ 130 PMT (FOB) has been contracted for import from Vietnam. It is composed of 1.40 lakh tonnes of rice on Commercial basis and 0.75 lakh tonnes of rice against payment of interest dues on old Commodity Loans outstanding against Vietnam.

No other contract or agreement has so far been signed for import of wheat and rice during the subsequent year i.e. the financial year 1993-94.

(b) and (c) Import of foodgrains is resorted to as and when there is a need to improve stocks in the Central Pool for supply to Public Distribution System and also to contain rising prices in the open market by improving the overall availability of foodgrains.